What is claimed is:

1. A nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion protein comprising:

(a) a signal sequence;

(b) an immunoglobulin Fc region; and

(c) a target protein sequence comprising interferon-alpha,

wherein the signal sequence, the immunoglobulin Fc region and the target protein sequence are encoded serially in a 5' to 3' direction.

2. The nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region.

3. The nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region and an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region domain.

4. The nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region and an immunoglobulin CH3 domain.

5. The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises a hinge region, a CH2 domain and a CH3 domain.

6. The nucleic acid of claim 5 wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises a portion of an immunoglobulin gamma sequence.

7. The nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the immunoglobulin gamma is human immunoglobulin gamma1.

8. A replicable expression vector for transfecting a mammalian cell, the vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.

(b) culturing the mammalian cell to produce the fusion protein.

21. The method of claim 20 comprising the additional step of collecting the fusion protein.

22. The method of claim 20 comprising the additional step of purifying the fusion protein.

23. The method of claim 20 comprising the additional step of cleaving with a proteolytic enzyme the immunoglobulin Fc region from the target protein at a proteolytic cleavage site disposed between the immunoglobulin Fc region and the target protein.

24. A method of treating a condition alleviated by the administration of interferon-alpha comprising the step of administering the nucleic acid of claim 1 to a mammal having the condition.

25. A method of treating a condition alleviated by the administration of interferon-alpha comprising the step of administering the vector of claim 8 to a mammal having the condition.

26. A method of treating a condition alleviated by the administration of interferon-alpha comprising the step of administering the fusion protein of claim 11 to a mammal having the condition.

27. A method of treating a condition alleviated by the administration of interferon-alpha comprising the step of administering protein of claim 18 to a mammal having the condition.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein the condition is a liver disorder.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the liver disorder is hepatitis.

9. The replicable expression vector of claim 8 wherein the vector is a viral vector.

10. A mammalian cell harboring the nucleic acid of claim 1.

11. A fusion protein comprising in an amino terminal to carboxy terminal direction an immunoglobulin Fc region and a target protein comprising interferon-alpha.

12. The fusion protein of claim 11 wherein the interferon-alpha comprises an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO.: 2, 7 or 8-21 or a species or allelic variant thereof.

13. The fusion protein of claim 11 wherein the target protein comprises at least two interferon-alpha molecules linked by a polypeptide linker.

14. The fusion protein of claim 13 further comprising a polypeptide linker linking the immunoglobulin Fc region to the target protein.

15. The fusion protein of claim 11 wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region and an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region domain.

16. The fusion protein of claim 15 wherein the heavy chain constant region domain comprises a CH3 domain.

17. The fusion protein of claim 11 wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises a hinge region, a CH2 domain and a CH3 domain.

18. A multimeric protein comprising at least two fusion proteins of claim 11 linked via a covalent bond.

19. The protein of claim 18 wherein the covalent bond is a disulfide bond.

20. A method of producing a fusion protein comprising the steps of:

(a) providing the mammalian cell of claim 10; and